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# BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

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# BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

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To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1953. In conformity with Ministry of Health requirements the information requested under some Sections and which has not varied from the preceding year is indicated "No Change".

On the 1st May, 1953, the Port of Boston was approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, and Certificates issued from that date to the 31st December, 1953, are included in Table F of Section 12.

The general trade of the Port and the foreign ports from which ships arrived, have varied very little from that of previous years, but there has been an increase in ships arriving from foreign ports from 436 in 1952 to 565 in 1953, and coastwise traffic has also increased from 373 to 380 for the same comparative years.

I am pleased to report there has been a complete absence of infectious diseases, and I am satisfied that the present arrangements are adequate to deal with any outbreak that may occur.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

MARCH, 1954.

## SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

- NO CHANGE -

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## SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

| Ships from. | Number. | Tonnage. | Number inspected. | | Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | By the Medical Officer of Health. | By the Sanitary Inspector. | |
| Foreign Ports. | 565. | 134,451. | 15. | 126. | Nil. |
| Coastwise. | 380. | 61,046. | 3. | 40. | Nil. |
| Total. | 945. | 195,497. | 18. | 166. | Nil. |

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## SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

| | |
|---|---|
| PASSENGER TRAFFIC ... | Number of passengers INWARDS : 88.<br>Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 93. |
| CARGO TRAFFIC ... | Principal IMPORTS : Grain, Deals, Battens and Boards, Sleepers, Telegraph Poles, Flour, Feeding Stuffs, Potatoes, Fertilisers, Fruit and Vegetables, Bulbs, Petroleum, Basic Slag, Spelter, Bog Ore, Clay, Mussels and Fish, Steel Bars.<br>Principal EXPORTS : Grain, Sugar, Zinc Ashes, Steel Tyres, General (Continental), Fireclay, Coal. |
| PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ... | BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent.<br>CORSICA : Ajaccio, Bastia.<br>DENMARK : Esbjerg, Fredericia, Lemvig, Nykobing, Vejle.<br>EGYPT : Alexandria.<br>FINLAND : Hamina, Hango, Haukipudas, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Pateniemi, Rafso, Raumo, Yxpila.<br>FRANCE : Bayonne, Bordeaux, Dieppe, Honfleur, Rheims.<br>GERMANY : Bremen, Hamburg, Kiel, Stettin. |

(Continued)

## SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C. (Continued).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ... | HOLLAND | : Haarlingen, Hansweert, Maasluis, Middleharnis, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Zaandam. |
| | NORWAY | : Bergen, Frederickstad, Oslo, Skien. |
| | POLAND | : Gdansk. |
| | RUSSIA | : Archangel, Kovda, Leningrad, Petchora. |
| | SPAIN | : Almeria, Burriana, Gandia, Valencia. |
| | SWEDEN | : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Hernosand, Hudiksvall, Karlshamm, Karlstad, Karskar, Kopmanholmen, Ljusne, Norrkoping, Nykoping, Oskarshamm, Skutskar, Stugsund, Sundsvall. |

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## SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

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## SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

   (a) The District.

   - NO CHANGE -

   (b) Shipping.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

   - NO CHANGE -

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

   - NO CHANGE -

4. Number and sanitary conditions of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

   There are no water boats in the port.

   - NO CHANGE -

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## SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

- NO CHANGE -

5. Arrangements for :-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII).

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

- NO CHANGE -

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## SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J.H.C. Clarke,
County Offices,
Sleaford.

Dr. J. Glen,
Springfield Hospital,
Scarthoe,
Grimsby.

Dr. G. Nisbet,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A.W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, School of Hygiene, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

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## SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

- NO CHANGE -

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## SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

| Category. | Disease. | Number of cases during the year. | | Number of ships concerned. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Passengers. | Crew. | |
| Cases landed from ships from foreign ports. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Cases landed from other ships. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1953.

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## SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

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## SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1953.

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## SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester 10.

During the year 1 body was examined and reported as free from plague.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

| Category. | Number. |
|---|---|
| Black rats ..... | Nil. |
| Brown rats ..... | 3. |
| Species not known ..... | Nil. |
| Sent for examination .... | 1. |
| Infected with plague .... | Nil. |

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TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

On the 1st May, 1953, Boston was classified as an approved port for the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates. The following table gives particulars of exemption certificates issued from the 1st May - 31st December. Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

| Net tonnage. | No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued. |
|---|---|
| Ships up to 300 tons. | 7. |
| Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons. | 4. |
| Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons. | Nil. |
| Total. | 11. |

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## SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

| Nature and number of inspections. | | Notices served. | | Result of serving Notices. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Statutory Notices. | Other Notices. | |
| Defects of Original Construction. | 133. | Nil. | Nil. | --- |
| Structural Defects through wear and tear. | 141. | Nil. | 8. | 2 remedied.<br>6 sailed before completion. |
| Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health. | 149. | Nil. | 16. | 14 remedied.<br>2 sailed before completion. |
| Total. | 149. | Nil. | 24. | 16 remedied. |

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## SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1953, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 20 shipments of Danish mussels totalling 36,340 bags were landed. All consignments were accompanied by a certificate of purity and samples submitted for bacteriological examination were all satisfactory.

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## SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

- NO CHANGE -

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## SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

- NO CHANGE -

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